

April 3, 1984

LB 14A

abortion and Senator Labeledz and Jim Cunningham from Nebraska Catholic Conference and I and others met and we worked it out perfectly, the bill is sitting on General File, it needs to be advanced, Senator Barrett tried to make this a priority bill, but it just couldn't get done the last few days and all we need to do is take 739 and with the committee amendments, which I have done, put it in the shell of an A bill and take care of what has been a problem for a long period of time. This is not controversial. It is not controversial. It is something that the state needs to do to make certain it is in full conformity with the federal government. I would ask your indulgence. If I have to suspend the rules because of germaneness I'll be glad to do that. I'll do what I need to do. But it is something that needs to be done and I think Senator Barrett will talk about it for a moment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President and members. The Vard Johnson amendment, which he is asking the bill to be brought back for an amendment, is identical, as he suggests to LB 739 which was heard by the Business and Labor Committee. I did make an effort to make this a priority bill. In the view of the Speaker it was not possible, I fully understood. I am in sympathy with Senator Johnson's effort to bring the bill back and amend 739 into 14A. The Attorney General's Opinion, which was issued on this matter, in January of this year did indicate that the Federal Employment Practice Act does not presently grant general rule and regulation making authority to the Equal Opportunity Commission for carrying out the act. The Commission could be in a serious bind if it must wait until 1985 for this gap in the statutes to be filled. The gap was, in my opinion, created because of a deficiency when the bill was passed or when the act was passed in 1965. I would encourage the body to support Senator Johnson in this effort. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion? If not, Senator Johnson, you may close.